

HOUSE RESOLUTION 227
By Hood

A RESOLUTION to commend Rosemary Wade Owens for her honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as an educator and administrator.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to the steadfast service of educating young people; and

WHEREAS, Rosemary Wade Owens is one such person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Owens is a highly respected member of the educational community, earning the respect of her peers through her innovative methods of teaching and her remarkable dedication to her profession; and

WHEREAS, a proficient scholar, Mrs. Owens graduated from Walter Hill High School in 1969; from there, she pursued a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary, Kindergarten and Nursery Education at Middle Tennessee State University, graduating in 1972; and

WHEREAS, Rosemary Owens' desire to learn led her to attend graduate school at Middle Tennessee State University, where she obtained a Master of Education Degree in Curriculum and Instruction in 1974; she later earned an Educational Specialist Degree from MTSU in 1979, an Educational Doctorate in Educational Administration and Supervision from

Tennessee State University in 1983 and certification as a Public School Counselor from MTSU in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Rosemary Owens began her professional career as an elementary school educator in the Murfreesboro Public School System in 1973 and remained there until 1984; after her tenure as an outstanding elementary educator, Mrs. Owens accepted positions as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Tennessee State and an Assistant Professor at Tennessee Technological University; and

WHEREAS, since 1985, Mrs. Owens has served Middle Tennessee State University in numerous capacities including as an Adjunct Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and her current position as the Dean of Continuing Studies and Public Service; and

WHEREAS, as Dean of Continuing Studies and Public Service, Rosemary Owens oversees the major functions of her Division, manages \$7,000,000 in expenditures and revenue of the Division's budget, develops educational and professional programs to serve the community and seeks funding for these projects through various governmental institutions; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Owens has initiated several essential public service programs including a Summer Youth Program for 14 –18 year-olds, the Pre-college Math, Science, and Economics Program, the Minority Youth Leadership Development Institute, and she has greatly contributed to the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development and the Job Training Partnership Act; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of the MTSU faculty, Mrs. Owens has served on a number of academic, financial, and student committees; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Owens' commitment to education spans farther than the campus as she is extremely active in numerous professional organizations including the National Education Association, Delta Kappa Gamma, Kappa Omicron Phi, Phi Delta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, and Delta Sigma Theta; she is also a participant in the Association for Continuing Higher Education, the University Continuing Education Association, Tennessee Alliance for Continuing Higher Education, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Reaffirmation Visiting Teams, the

National Leadership Institute in Adult and Continuing Education and the North American Associations for Summer Sessions; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished educator, Rosemary Owens has given numerous acclaimed lectures and presentations on educational, economic, and spiritual issues; and

WHEREAS, throughout her exemplary tenure as an educator and administrator, Rosemary Wade Owens has distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to her community; and

WHEREAS, she has become an integral part of the Murfreesboro Community, serving in numerous civic organizations including the Board of Advisors for Hospice of Murfreesboro; the Tennessee Vocational Training Center, Leadership Rutherford, Education 2000 Task Force of Governor's Better Schools Program; the Rutherford County Adult Activity Center Board of Directors; the Mid-South Bank Community Advisory Council; the American Heart Association Board and the Consolidated Utility District of Rutherford County; and

WHEREAS, as a concerned and active citizen, Mrs. Owens was instrumental in the implementation of the Single Mother's Employment Program; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Owens has served as a Rutherford County Community Service Award Judge and as a member of both the Association for Continuing Higher Education and the Tennessee Board of Regents; and

WHEREAS, throughout her many years of dedicated public service, Rosemary Owens has been honored with numerous accolades including the 1988 Outstanding Young Woman of America Award, the 2001 Meritorious Service Award from the Association for Continuing Higher Education, and the 2001 Trailblazer Award from the Tennessee Board of Regents; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Owens' remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to her reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and her uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Rosemary Owens is a dedicated member of the Bethel Baptist Church, where she diligently serves as a Director of the Division of Christian Education and as the Director of the “Just Say No” Club; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Owens is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and she epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Owens is wholly committed to the education of young people and the future of our great State. Rosemary Wade Owens is the epitome of public service and exemplifies the true characteristics of a Tennessean and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby commend Mrs. Rosemary Wade Owens for her honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as an educator and administrator and salute her unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.